

***Iowa Outdoors***  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**www.iowadnr.com**

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**July 15, 2003**

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**NESTING OSPREYS RETURN TO IOWA**

By Lowell Washburn  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

SPIRIT LAKE--It is history in the making. For the first time since pioneer settlement, wild ospreys are successfully nesting in Iowa.

"This is an exciting time. Nesting ospreys are just something that people don't get to see here," said DNR wildlife technician, Tim Waltz as he addressed a crowd of more than 100 wildlife enthusiasts gathered at the Spirit Lake Middle School last Thursday. The crowd witnessed the banding of the first documented osprey chick ever produced in the wild in Iowa.

"We're privileged to have the birds here. The ospreys offer a tremendous educational opportunity," said Waltz. "This nest didn't just happen. It is the result of a lot cooperation among a lot of people."

THE OSPREY SAGA began two years ago when DNR fisheries technician and birding enthusiast, Ed Thelen accompanied his son Nathan, to a baseball game at the Spirit Lake High School. While sitting in the bleachers, Thelen observed an adult osprey circling above the ball diamond. Even more unusual was that the bird carried a large stick in its talons. Scanning the field, Thelen noticed that three of the diamond's light poles had piles of sticks wedged into the light brackets. The evidence was overwhelming that wild ospreys were attempting to establish a territory in northwest Iowa.

Late that fall, a specialized nest structure was installed a few hundred yards away at the

Middle School's Outdoor Classroom. Taller and more secure than the light poles, the structure consisted of a 65-foot utility pole equipped with a raccoon barrier on the bottom and a four-foot square nesting platform at the top.

"The folks at Alliant energy were a tremendous help on this project," said Waltz. "They donated and installed the pole, supplied the trucks, everything. Alliant employees have done all the work during their off duty time. It's been great."

The ospreys agreed. When the pair returned in the spring of 2002, they immediately took up residence on the new structure. After constructing a nest on the platform, the pair produced a single egg that failed to hatch.

"Everyone was disappointed by that, but the important thing was that the pair was firmly established on the site," said Pat Schlarbaum of the DNR's wildlife diversity program.

"The good news is that the ospreys returned again this summer and are now being successful."

BY USING A SPOTTING SCOPE to read leg band numbers, biologists have been able to identify the female as a bird from Lake Minnetonka in central Minnesota. The female osprey is six years old.

"Although the male is also banded, we have not been able to get a reading on him," said Schlarbaum. "We do know that males tend to establish territories very near to where they learned to fly, and I think it's safe to speculate that the bird came from Heron Lake in southern Minnesota. That's only about thirty miles north of here, and Heron Lake has been the site of osprey re-introductions."

According to Schlarbaum, the Spirit Lake osprey chick is about six weeks old. The young bird will begin testing its wings at about 53 days. Young ospreys may attempt catching their own fish within three or four days on the wing, and are totally self sufficient within three weeks of leaving the nest. Young birds follow their parents south and spend the winter in Central and South America.

"Ospreys have a hunting style that is as unique and dynamic as any of our birds of prey," said Schlarbaum. "They hover, and when they spot a fish they dive right in and go get it. When it comes to watchable wildlife it just doesn't get any better. This is a highly desirable wildlife species, and everyone is obviously thrilled to have these birds nesting on the Outdoor Classroom."

Schlarbaum noted that a second osprey pair has established a successful nest at Lake Macbride in Johnson County. That nest contains three young that will be banded at 10 a.m., July 16, at the Macbride Recreation Area.

Scientists regard the osprey as a biological indicator species. During the 1950s, the species was nearly driven to extinction when DDT contamination fouled North America's waterways. Because of their tragic connection to pesticide poisoning, ospreys [along with peregrine falcons and

bald eagles] served as "canaries in the mine shaft" alerting humans to the dangers of pesticide contamination.

"Hopefully this is just the beginning for Iowa ospreys," said Thelen. "Maybe someday their comeback will be as successful as what we're currently seeing with bald eagles."

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## **TIME CHANGE FOR BOONE COUNTY OSPREY RELEASE**

BOONE – The July 17 osprey release at Don Williams Lake, near Ogden, will take place at 9 a.m., one hour earlier than originally scheduled. The Boone County Conservation Board and volunteers will place five young Ospreys at the lake. This is the first year of Osprey releases and the volunteers are prepared to do everything they can to secure Osprey nesting in central Iowa. For more information, contact Missy King (515) 795-2809.

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## **ANNUAL DNR UPLAND GAME SURVEY TO BEGIN**

BOONE - The Iowa DNR's annual survey of upland game populations will soon be under way with state biologists and conservation officers driving more than 200, 30-mile roadside routes statewide between August 1-15.

The August Roadside Survey, as it is called, "is the DNR's main tool for determining whether our fall upland game populations will be up or down from the previous year," said Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife research biologist for the DNR.

Routes start at sunrise on mornings with heavy dew and are run primarily on gravel roads because of their lower traffic volume. A heavy dew causes hens to move their broods to the gravel roadsides to dry off before feeding, allowing them to be counted easily. Routes are driven over the same roads each year so that the information is comparable with previous years.

According to Bogenschutz, this survey is the best indicator of what hunters will find when they take to the field this fall.

"Historically, when the roadside counts are compared to the small game harvest figures, they parallel each other nicely," he said. However, since the survey depends on heavy dew for consistent results, hot dry weather in August can affect the results. "The birds do not come to the roads as consistently in dry years, which makes the counts more variable," Bogenschutz said.

Final results of the survey will be compiled in late August and will be released in early September. Small game hunters interested in this year's counts can log on to the DNR's website [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and receive an e-mail notification when the roadside results have been posted.

**For more information, contact Bogenschutz at 515-432-2823.**

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## **LACEY-KEOSAUQUA LAKE IS FULL AND OPEN FOR USE**

WASHINGTON – The 30-acre lake at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park is full and open for all recreational uses. Repair work to fix the breach in the dam was completed about three weeks ago and heavy rains last week filled the lake.

Tim Yancy, regional parks supervisor for the DNR, said there is currently no concession at the park because the lake was down for more than 15 months. The dam was breached on or about May 18, 2002, releasing a large amount of water through the park and into the Des Moines River.

“We’ll be working at re-establishing a concession at the park for next year,” Yancy said. As in years past, boat rental will be part of the concession operation, he said.

The beach is open for use and will be sampled as part of the DNR’s weekly beach monitoring effort. There is no lifeguard on duty and swimming is allowed “at your own risk.”

“The lake looks good, everything seems to be back in order,” he said.

The low water level in Lacey-Keosauqua Lake didn’t seem to impact the number of campers in the state park, Yancy said. But it did impact cabin rentals. Cabins are available through the end of the season, which usually ends around the middle of October. Call the park at 319-293-3502 for cabin rental information.

**For more information, contact Yancy at 319-694-2430.**

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## **GOOSE ROUNDUP AND SPECIAL URBAN GOOSE HUNTS**

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

With a wide turn in the canoe and a couple slaps of the paddle, the two ‘goose herders’ turned the flock. The line of Canada geese, now 80 strong, was trying to paddle out to the open river. Carefully posted workers, however, kept them heading toward the nearby lagoon. Having molted their flight feathers, these geese rely only on paddle-power for a couple weeks each summer.

Following the lead fence up from the lagoon, the grounded geese were joined by others, from upstream. The waterfowl were relatively calm as they came beak-to-fence against the back of the holding pen. On this day, it was Ellis Park in Cedar Rapids. The next morning, it would be Waterworks Park in Des Moines. Waverly, Evansdale and other hotspots have been 'de-goosed' in the past couple weeks.

These urban honkers were going for a ride. Half a dozen wildlife workers from the Department of Natural Resources sorted through the mass of feathers and beaks and handed them out to waiting city parks and recreation workers. Adults went in one direction, loaded into a couple trucks or trailers. They would be released about 15 miles away. Sub-adults, ranging from year-old geese down to large, fuzzy goslings, went to different vehicles. Destination? a wildlife area on a different watershed, an hour or so away. "If we move them all together, the adults know how to get back here," explains DNR wildlife management biologist Tim Thompson. "Once the young learn to fly, they'll probably just fly right back. By separating them, the young will imprint on the area where they first fly, as home."

The Cedar Rapids operation netted more than 300 geese. Over 350 were relocated from Des Moines. Smaller operations have yielded 20 here; 50 there, even a couple hundred in other spots. Though effective, the roundups are only short-term answers. "It's just a temporary fix," emphasizes Thompson. "The adults are going to come back, if not this summer, by next season to nest again. Hopefully, we won't have as many young geese coming back."

The comeback of the native Giant Canada goose, once extirpated from Iowa, has been remarkable. In areas where geese—and people—are concentrated, though, more is not better. Fun to watch in smaller numbers, the geese wear out their welcome as they fill grassy slopes at city parks or golf courses. Adults become aggressive, protecting their young from perceived intruders. And droppings are an odorous, slippery reminder even when the actual geese are not in the vicinity.

Potential solutions vary. In some cases, a community might restrict 'bread sack brigades'; residents who feed urban geese. A couple techniques prevent eggs from hatching, yet keep them in the nest. Special, early season goose hunts are offered as another answer. Iowa's Natural Resource Commission will consider a September 1-15 season for two urban areas; one targeting parts of greater Des Moines and Polk County, the other encompassing Iowa City-Cedar Rapids, and part of Johnson and Linn counties around the cities. The premise is to allow hunting in undeveloped acres, such as a city's rural fringe. Any decision on 'in city' hunting, though, would rest with the local government. The early dates would target resident geese. Goose migration through and Iowa's regular goose season come later in the fall.

Some smaller communities within the proposed special zones allow hunting, if safety restrictions are met. All three metro areas, though, have firearm and no hunting ordinances. As of now, little change is foreseen. "They (Cedar Rapids city councilors) made a decision in the past not to have urban hunting. There has been no case made to change that decision," explains mayoral assistant Doug Wagner. "If someone comes forward with a viable case for a change, the council would look at it." In Iowa City, a spokeswoman from the city manager's office said there has been no interest expressed in changing the no hunting ordinance.

Special circumstances may provide a different venue in Des Moines, where the airport lies between concentrations of geese at Waterworks Park and near Norwalk. “The city initiated contact with us a couple years ago. We have talked with people,” offers DNR depredation biologist Bill Bunger. “We have letters out to the (other) city councils involved. It is always better, though, if it is their initiative, not ours.”

Bunger emphasizes that the issue is how to break up the large urban flocks, not to see how many geese can be harvested. The goal is to reduce large concentrations of geese, with the resulting safety and aesthetic issues.

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## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of July 15, 2003**

**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

**For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 - 15:** The Mississippi River is yielding good fishing opportunities as water levels return to normal levels. Water temperature at Guttenberg is 75 degrees with good clarity and water levels are expected to continue dropping. A variety of fish are being caught in the upper pools, which is why angling on the *Miss* can be so much fun! You never know what you will catch—walleye, white bass, catfish, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass are all being caught in good numbers. Walleye fishing has been good on the wing dams in **Pools 9-11**. To catch walleyes, it is best to fish upstream of the wing dam using leeches or night crawlers under a three-way swivel. Use a short lead to the sinker and a long lead to the hook for best results. Keep your rig on the front section of the wing dam and avoid letting it float over the top of the wing dam where it can be easily snagged. Walleye fishing has been fair in **Pools 12-15**. Fish leeches, night crawlers or crankbaits along the wing dams tight to shore in areas of less current. White bass are starting to school up now in **Pools 9-11** and action can be very fast. Watch for schools feeding on minnows, but maintain some distance away from the melee to avoid spooking the white bass. Any lure with flash—such as a spoon or spinner—will work. Make long casts into the area where the minnows have been breaking the water. White bass can be found anywhere throughout Pools 9-11; however, areas close to Lock and Dams 9 and 10 tend to have better white bass populations. Fishing for channel catfish in **Pools 9-15** has been good, but the fish have been generally small. Try using stink bait or night crawlers as the air and water temperatures warm up. Catfishing is generally done in current areas along the main channel or larger side channels. Anchor above fallen trees or root wads where the catfish live. Try to allow the scent of your bait to drift along the trees and entice the hungry cats out. By staying above the sunken trees and luring the fish to you, you can avoid snagging up as often. Quality catfish locations include Minnesota Slough, Big Slough and

Winneshiek Slough in Pool 9; Harpers Slough, McDonald Slough and State Line Slough in Pool 10; and Cassville Slough, Picayune Chute, Jack Oak Slough, and Hurricane Chute in Pool 11. In **Pools 12-15**, it is recommended that you move if you don't get a bite after 15-30 minutes of fishing. Northern pike are being caught in a variety of locations in backwater and side channel areas of Pools 9-11. As water temperatures rise, look for pike to move around tributary streams and spring areas. Northern pike prefer cooler water temperatures and will use the springs and tributary streams as a cool-water refuge. White spinner baits work best for these waiting fish. Large tributary streams for northern pike fishing include the mouths of the Upper Iowa River in Pool 9 and the mouth of the Turkey River in Pool 11. Don't forget that smaller cool-water tributaries can also attract fish such as Village Creek in Pool 9, Buck Creek in Pool 10 and Miners Creek in Pool 11. Largemouth bass are being caught in very good numbers in recent weeks. These fish are being caught on a variety of lures, but the traditional tube jigs and spinner baits are working best. Largemouth are generally found in backwater lakes on the Mississippi River. As water temperatures warm up and river levels recede, don't be surprised if these fish move out into current areas. Look for largemouth near the openings of large backwater complexes or in adjacent flowing sloughs. Fish near the same fallen trees that you would normally catch catfish. Smallmouth bass are also being caught in very good numbers. Smallies are found in swift current areas with rock. These areas are generally associated with the main channel, including bank stabilization rock, day markers or wing dam habitats. Spinners and crankbaits are the lure of choice for these feisty fish. **Pools 12-15:** Freshwater drum fishing is excellent using night crawlers in side channels and on wing dams. Move until you find fish—don't sit in one place too long. If you haven't had a bite in 15 minutes, move! You may also want to try crayfish for bigger drum in the 5 to 6-pound range. A few bluegills and crappies are being caught in **Pools 12-15** in the log jams and brush piles out of current. Largemouth bass are fair in **Pools 12-15** on spinner baits and night crawlers.

**Upper Iowa River** (Howard): The river is murky; however, smallmouth bass fishing is good on white or bright colored plugs or jigs.

**Cedar River** (Floyd and Mitchell): The river is up and muddy, but channel catfish are biting on cut baits and night crawlers.

**Cedar** (Bremer and Black Hawk), **West Fork Cedar** (Butler) and **Shell Rock rivers** (Butler): Channel catfish are excellent on stink baits, dead frogs, night crawlers, crawfish and chicken liver.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Buchanan): Channel catfish are good to excellent on chicken liver and night crawlers.

**Maquoketa River** (Delaware): Channel catfish are good on night crawlers and blood baits from Manchester downstream. Crappie fishing is good in the backwater areas on crappie jigs and/or minnows. As the river continues to drop, walleye fishing should improve.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): Bluegill fishing is excellent on minnows or a piece of night crawler fished along the weed edges. Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers fished off the bottom. Crappie fishing is fair on a minnow fished under a slip bobber.

**Lake Meyer** (Winneshiek): Largemouth bass and crappie fishing is good on small jigs and/or minnows.

**Delaware County Farm Ponds:** Bluegill fishing is good using wax worms.

**Trout** fishing and stream conditions are excellent! For current trout stocking information, contact the Big Spring Hatchery at 563-245-1699, Decorah Hatchery at 563-382-3315 or Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-5736. You can also view the trout stocking calendar on-line by going to [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com), clicking on **Fish and Fishing** and then choosing **Favorite Pages**.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

### **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good. The larger fish are being caught at night on crankbaits. Yellow perch are starting to bite in 18 to 20-feet of water using wigglers and leeches.

**West Okoboji** (Dickinson): Anglers are catching bluegills using a leech under a bobber in 15 to 20-feet of water. Echo Bay and Hayward's Bay are good places for bluegills. Smallmouth bass are biting on leeches in Echo Bay and Hayward's Bay. Anglers are catching walleyes along the weed lines on leeches under a bobber or crankbaits. Walleyes are also being caught in Echo Bay and Hayward's Bay on leeches.

**East Okoboji** (Dickinson): Anglers are catching channel catfish on stink bait at the north end of the lake. Bullheads are also biting at the north end on traditional baits. Some white bass are being caught using small white spinners.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing remains fair to good trolling crankbaits or using a slip bobber and night crawlers.

**Five Island Lake** (Palo Alto): The walleye bite is sporadic. Cast twisters and crankbaits for the best action.

**Lost Island Lake** (Palo Alto and Clay): Channel catfish are good using night crawlers.

**Dog Creek Lake** (O'Brien): Fish around the submerged habitat for bluegill and largemouth bass.

**Lake Pahoja** (Lyon): Channel catfish continues to be good using traditional baits after dark. Fishing is good for crappie, bluegill and yellow perch, but the size of fish is on the small side. Use a small hook tipped with a wax worm.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass are being caught around the rock reefs using minnows and cut bait. Try different spots until you locate a school of fish. Channel catfish are good using chicken liver, stink bait and chubs in the rush beds in the west end of the lake, the rock reefs and wind blown shorelines.

**Briggs Woods Lake** (Hamilton): Largemouth bass are good using spinner baits and crankbaits. Bluegills are hitting on small pieces of night crawler or small jigs.

**Black Hawk Lake** (Sac): Channel catfish are good on chicken liver. Walleye fishing is fair over the rock piles.

**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista): Channel catfish are fair using chicken liver. Walleye are fair to good fishing in the dredge cut.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

### **Southwest**

**Green Valley** (Union): Largemouth bass can be caught with crankbaits along shore. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver, night crawlers or cut baits.

**Fogle Lake** (Ringgold): Channel catfish can be caught off the steep points.

**Three Mile** (Union): Walleyes are good using leeches, night crawlers, or crankbaits on the road bed and main points. Anglers drifting some of the flats are also doing well. Channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers or cut bait off the rocks and around the fish cleaning station. Largemouth bass fishing is good throughout the lake.



**Twelve Mile** (Union): Channel catfish fishing is good on cut bait and liver. Walleye fishing is good using leaches on the points. Anglers are catching a lot of yellow bass.

**Little River** (Decatur): Channel catfish is best using cut bait and liver in the bays. Some crappies can be caught drift fishing open water.

**Walnut Creek Marsh** (Ringgold): Big bluegills can be caught on the spawning beds, or by drift fishing the channel along the south shore.

**Icaria** (Adams): Channel catfish, 1 to 4-pounds, are being caught everywhere using cut bait and liver.

**Viking** (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is fair using tube jigs tipped with a minnow or minnows suspended from a bobber fished around brush piles or suspended in 8 to 10-feet of water. Catfish fishing has been good on liver. Bluegills are fair with jigs and night crawlers.

**Cold Springs** (Cass): Catfish are being caught on liver and prepared baits, especially toward evening.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish are excellent using liver or prepared baits.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Fishing is fair for 8-inch bluegills using jigs and/or night crawlers along shoreline and around brush piles. Fishing is good to excellent for channel catfish in the early morning and evening hours using liver.

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is good for channel catfish using prepared stink bait or cut fish.

**Nodaway** (Adair): Bluegills are biting on jigs/night crawlers along the shore and around structure. Fishing is good to excellent for channel catfish in the early morning and evening hours using liver.

**Morman Trail** (Adair): Fishing is good to excellent for channel catfish in the early morning and evening hours using liver. Walleye fishing is fair on cloudy days or toward evening, drifting using night crawlers.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Fishing is good for 8-inch crappies on jigs/minnows around brush piles. Fishing is good for channel catfish using livers or prepared baits. Largemouth bass fishing has been good.

**Willow** (Harrison): Largemouth bass fishing is good for fish under legal length limit, using a variety of baits. Anglers are catching 1.5 pound channel catfish on liver, night crawlers and prepared baits.

**Desoto Bend** (Harrison): Bluegill and crappie fishing is fair during the early evening hours. Anglers are catching channel catfish using liver and prepared baits.

**Farm Ponds** (SW Iowa): Largemouth bass and channel catfish fishing is good. Anglers are reminded that permission needs to be granted to fish on private farm ponds.

**Big Creek Lake** (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good to excellent although it might require trying several areas to initially locate the fish. Some of the best success has been in water 8 to 10-feet deep using pieces of worm on 1/32-ounce jigs and slip bobbers. Largemouth bass fishing has improved using a variety of lures in various areas of the lake. Channel catfish fishing has been good using cut and stink baits. Some nice-sized catfish have been reported.

**Beaver Lake** (Dallas): Bluegill fishing has slowed. The best areas have been around woody structure along the shorelines. Largemouth bass fishing has also been good using a variety of lures.

**Don Williams** (Boone): Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers in the north end of the lake. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using top-water lures around shoreline structure.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good using night crawlers or wax worms. Redear sunfish fishing has also been good with the best success using wax worms fished

close to the bottom around the vegetation and woody areas and small coves. Largemouth bass – primarily sub-legal size fish – are being caught on crankbaits. Channel catfish fishing has been good on night crawlers, stink baits and chicken liver.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Bluegill and redear have been caught using traditional baits and lures. Some largemouth bass are being caught on crankbaits, although as in Lake Ahquabi, most fish are sub-legal.

**Rock Creek** (Jasper): Crappie fishing has been fair for boat anglers in deeper water using jigs and minnows. Most fish are 9 to 10 inches. Channel catfish fishing has been good using night crawlers. Some nice walleye have also been reported, primarily caught by anglers fishing largemouth bass.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Crappie fishing has been fair to good with anglers using jigs and minnows and/or worms. Largemouth bass fishing, primarily sub-legal size fish, is fair with the majority taken along the face of the dam using spinners and top-water lures. Channel catfish are being taken in the shallower areas using night crawlers and stink baits.

**Hickory Grove Lake** (Story): Bluegill fishing is good using small hooks tipped with worms. Largemouth bass fishing has improved using top-water lures. Channel catfish fishing is good on chicken liver/night crawlers.

**Saylorville Lake** (Polk): Water levels in Saylorville have increased recently and boaters/anglers need to be aware of water conditions. White bass/wiper fishing has been good either trolling or vertical jigging. Channel catfish fishing has picked up using traditional baits such as stink baits, cut baits and night crawlers. **Tailwater:** White bass fishing has been fair using leadheads and twister tails, although fishing for all species has slowed due to the high release of water from Saylorville Lake. Some channel catfish have been caught using traditional baits and a few flathead catfish have been reported.

**Lake Red Rock** (Marion): Water levels in the reservoir have been increasing due to recent rains. However, white bass/wipers fishing have been good using rattler type lures. Crappie fishing has been fair particularly around rocky areas of the lake. Channel catfish fishing has been good along shorelines using stink baits, cut baits and night crawlers. **Tailwater:** White bass/wipers fishing have been good despite the increase in water release. Crappie and channel catfish fishing has also been good using jigs and/or minnows for crappie and more traditional baits for channel cats. Some flathead catfish have also been caught in the area below the reservoir.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 – 19:** Water levels are dropping slowly and expected to stabilize later in the week. Water temperature is in the low to middle 80s. Catfishing is good on stink bait and chicken liver. Walleye fishing is slow to good on the wing dams with three way rigs and crankbaits. Largemouth bass fishing is good in Pool 17 in Big Timber and Eagle Fill.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Last week's rain brought the lake up to full and kept it muddy for a couple of days; but, as it has it has been doing this year, the water has started to clear up already.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): The evening catfish bite has been fairly good lately. Minnows and stink bait seems to be the baits of choice. Last week's reworking of the sediment ponds was postponed because of the rain. The contractor will be moving in when conditions allow so keep an eye out for construction equipment in the park.

**Lake Odessa** (Louisa): Because of the rain and the Mississippi River not going down, the water levels have yet to reach the summer lows. All the boat ramps and the Toolesboro road are open.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Channel catfish have been hitting on cut bait and liver. Walleyes have been hitting on night crawlers drifted or trolled over rocky points and underwater rock piles.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Largemouth bass have been hitting a variety of artificial presentations. Bluegills have been biting on small jigs.

**Lake Miami** (Monroe): Bluegills have been biting on small jigs. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and night crawlers.

**Lake Keomah** (Mahaska): Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial lures. Bluegills have been biting on chunks of night crawler fished under a bobber. Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers and liver.

**Coralville Reservoir** (Johnson): Anglers continue to catch a few catfish throughout the reservoir on shad and dip baits.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): A few catfish continue to bite near the causeway and throughout the lake on dip baits and night crawlers. Crappie fishing has been slow to fair on jigs and minnows.

**Hannen Lake and Rodgers Lake** (Benton): Anglers are catching bluegill and catfish in both lakes. Minnows are not allowed in either lake.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Channel catfish has been excellent on various baits throughout the lake. Bluegill fishing has been fair. Anglers are reminded that minnow usage is prohibited at Diamond Lake.

**Pleasant Creek** (Linn): White bass fishing has been good on surface baits. Largemouth bass have been hitting on night crawlers and soft plastic baits.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Jones): River conditions are high; channel catfish, however, have been biting well throughout the river on night crawlers and various prepared baits.

**Cedar River** (Cedar and Linn): Channel catfish have been biting on dip baits. Larger catfish are being caught on chubs. Anglers should be aware of high water conditions throughout the Cedar River.

**Skunk River** (Washington and Henry): Catfishing has been fair to poor on the river. After last week's rain, the river went up to roughly three-fourths bank full, but it is now dropping rapidly. The high water conditions over the weekend kept fishing pressure low.

**Iowa River** (Louisa): Water levels are at about bank full right now and don't seem to be going down anytime soon as upstream waters levels are at or above flood stage.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

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